

TO DIVIDE CALIFORNIA.

MEXICO

TIES WHICH WILL PRESENTLY BE URGED

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE
Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 18.—There are two matters of vital interest to California, and of general interest to the outside world, of which very little intimation is ever given, except through the Southern California

Mountains. These questions are State division, and the acquisition of Baja California. The former is by no means a new proposition. It was born with the State in 1850, when California was admitted to the Union. The southern counties formally protested

reach the attention of the senate. The bill was not allowed to drop, however, for sufficient influence was secured in 1850 to carry the bill to the senate to the session of the southern counties on a two-thirds affirmative vote of the residents. It was given, but in the hurry bury of war times, nothing further was done in the matter.

It was just as well that the movement did what it did, for it was supposed to be in the interest of the slave States. With the ending of the war and the constant rapid development of the State, the bill did not obtrude itself on the public until 1860 when ex-Governor John G. Downey and a committee of the finest legal talent in the southern part of the State declared their opinion that the enactment of 1850, the subsequent election and all the technical requirements had been properly observed and complied with, and that, the only remaining requirement to secure division was the consent of Congress. There the matter stands at present, though the agitation has been consistently kept up here in the South, by

organized though small party. During the last two months the campaign has become decidedly agricultural. The cities of Los Angeles and San Diego, however, have in the main been conspicuous by their absence from the project.

Topographically the division is indicated naturally by the San Gabriel mountains, as expressed by a recent writer on the subject, as follows: "Southern California is a distinct topographical division from Northern California. From Point Conception near latitude 34 degrees north to the Gulf of California, the range of the Sierrita Nevada is a high range of mountains that run across the State and divide the State into two grand topographical divisions. The influence of these dividing mountains (commonly known as the Sierra Nevada) is very great on the climate. Their high altitude of 5,000 feet and more, wrings from the southern trade winds their moisture and shields the south from the northern winter storms. No more marked climatic difference could be imagined. On their respective sides of the divide the climate is entirely different. The mountains are Northern and Southern California on their respective sides of the Sierra Nevada."

Industrially, the two sections are far apart, with the interests very little in common, and an intense jealousy existing.

tion into southern California has been made by the Republican States, with the exception of the last, which being Democratic, has withheld assent. The last of the State is divided, the north, with its large republican population, is in favor of the Union, while the powerful Democratic State, while the South will be an unflinching Republican one. This by no means follows, however, for on purely party grounds, the probability is that both States would be Republican either one would be Democratic. There can be no question but that the Union will live, and it is not unlikely that the division will take place. The South is ambitious, it is able to put off its day, and it has not made up its mind that it will do so.

As a result of the discussion of State division has sprung up the proposal to acquire the peninsula of Baja California. Geographically a glance at the map will show that this is a strip of land, the southern portion of northern California, and entirely separated from Mexico by water. It is no uncommon matter in fact for the United States to trade with Mexico, and their way to San Diego and thence south to their ports. The Territory is effectively cut off from Mexico, and its population is decreasing constantly, while the American and English are just as rapidly increasing. The Chinese make up the bulk of the population, and the United States Country to swear over by hundreds. In defiance of exclusion acts, and in fact almost innumerable arguments showing that the United States has no right to the Territory are cited by advocates of the scheme.

In discussing this subject, B. A. Stephens, of this city, in a recent issue of the *San Francisco Argonaut*, has written against the proposition as follows:

"1. 'The Mexicans do not want to sell Love California.' This is not official. Minister Romero in a recent magazine article on that subject, spoke only for himself, and not for his Nation. Mexico owes the United States \$200,000,000. She has offered only \$100,000,000. She has offered to sell the peninsula for one-fourth of that sum. She may again agree to sell, especially to a Nation to whom she owes a debt of gratitude for her very existence.

"2. 'The Mexican Constitution forbids the sale of any of the public domain to a foreign power.' No

such clause exists in the Mexican Constitution. In 1848 Mexico sold the United States what is now New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and California for \$15,000,000. In 1854 she sold the Gadsden purchase. In 1899 she negotiated for the sale of the peninsula

Lower California is only a federal territory like Alaska and is salable.

3. "The United States does not desire the California who oppose State Division, and probably of foreign colonization on the peninsula. A large number of Mexican citizens are on the peninsula. The residents of Northern California need California needs it, for it will double her area and remove the last objection to her getting entangled. The United States needs it to prevent a foreign power establishing a vassalage there. She needs it to prevent Chinese smuggling themselves across the border. She needs it to bring the waters of the Pacific Ocean back into the United States. She needs it for the proper protection of the many American interests now established there."

General William H. Vandever, Congressman from this State, at the last session introduced a bill which was buried, however, which provided for the opening of negotiations for the purchase of the Territory of California. It is believed that the bill will never be well backed by other members. It is his measure, and if persistency and earnestness will bring the desired result, he will effect it.

ALLEGING UNDUE INFLUENCE.

INTERESTING TESTIMONY BY A PRIEST IN BOSTON WILL CONTEST.

Boston, Feb. 1 (Special).—It is charged that Patrick McDonnell, a rich stone dealer of Quincy, who is leaving an estate worth more than \$300,000, was unduly influenced in making his will. He left his estate specifically to his family and outside institutions. A daughter, Mrs. Emily Garbarino, opposes the will. The will divided her a house in Quincy. An

making provision for different members of his family and giving a certain sum conditionally to the church work, the will reads: "Any of my heirs attempting to break this, I cut off with the barest allowances the law—\$5 or less. This will has given me much thought and consideration, as well as prayer, and simply the fruit of conscientious obligation."

brother-in-law, the witness stated, was on the witness stand, and he was asked if he knew the clause bequeathing \$5,000 to the Archbishop of this diocese disturbed the testator, as he hesitated a week before deciding to be so generous. The witness said: "McDonnell wanted to give some money to charities, and I suggested this \$5,000 to the Archbishop, as the secretary at Prichon was the greatest charity I knew of; he was not disposed to leave it until I mentioned it, but after that he knew I was insistent, and he gave me the check for insurance of \$1,500. I suggested I intend to give it to the Archbishop for that purpose. I should not be so sure that I am entitled to be credited for this bequest."

"Mr. McDonnell did not put me under bonds, and he knew I had no money, and would not serve executor under those circumstances. The clause 'I will give' has given me no trouble, and I have no prayer, and is simply the fruit of conscientious obligation," was mine, I knew that Mr. McDonnell had given it much thought and prayer."

McDonnell was then asked a question by Patrick McDonnell, was shown the witness, who acknowledged writing it. "When the draft of the last will was being written, I was asked to write the clause bequeathing

leave some money to St. John's Church, and also the parochial school, which he refused to do. When the will was read, three days after he died, I told Emily that there was no money and that I did not receive more. Three years ago Mr. and Mrs. Garbarino had some trouble, and did not send the children to Sunday school. I felt as if that was not the right thing to do. Emily then was not a chance. I would speak to her father, and he would not leave her anything. When Mr. McDonnell was stricken down, his memory failed him. He remembered that he always had asked for the money, but he did not know how to get it. He said to Emily, "I would like to leave you some money, but I don't know how to do it. I would like to leave you something." The hearing was a closed, and Judge White was pass upon the case soon.

Island Athletic Club on charges made by Frederic Janssen, has preferred a counter charge against Janssen, and the latter, it is expected, will be tried before the board of governors of the club on Tuesday night. The suspension of Ford has caused much feeling among his friends, and it is believed that the trial will be a lively time at the meeting when Janssen is brought to trial.